

A Research on the Structure of the so-called Wazyū Villages in Mino and Owari in Japan.

By Rikuhei Imori

The so-called Wazyū villages are, generally speaking, those which are surrounded by dikes and scattered over the vast basin of Kiso, Nagara, and Ibi rivers in Mino and Owari, two middle-southern provinces of Japan.

This paper is intended to scrutinize the hypothesis that any Wazyū villager may form a closer relationship with one another as a dweller of the locality than the people in the other villages, owing to the common interest of providing against inundations, and facilitating irrigation and drainage. For this purpose 178 Wazyū buraku (Japanese subdivisions of villages) were compared with as many neighbouring buraku, chiefly with reference to several aspects of co-operation practices seen in the subgroups based upon locality and blood-relationship. And a conclusion derived from this research is that the hypothesis cannot be verified, that is to say, the Wazyū villages do not always surpass the other adjacent ones in locality-relationship, and in them rather blood-relationship is found to be somewhat intenser.

Therefore it may be said that the relationship grown out of the common interest in regard to water affairs does not go beyond the common activities based upon that interest.